

Tour Accessibility at Soudan Underground Mine State Park Podcast

If you plan on taking a tour at Soudan, be aware that we have worked to make the tours ADA accessible. For the historic tour, we offer ADA tours at 10 am and 4 pm. This means that we are able to accommodate one wheelchair on each of these tours. If you are in a wheelchair and unable to make either of these two scheduled tours, we will attempt to accommodate you at other times, if we have staffing in place to do so. For the physics tour, we will make every effort to accommodate ADA needs. Advance notification will help with this process.

If you have any ADA needs other than a wheelchair, we should be able to take you during any tour. Let your guide know what your needs are when you arrive. If you need an interpreter for sign language, please call the park so arrangements can be made.

The following description of the tour route is to help individuals better understand the conditions underground. You can also look at the park photos for a visual of the underground.

Participants enter the cage, which can accommodate wheel chairs up to 32 inches wide. Once you are underground you will load up in the train. There is a ramp for wheelchairs. You will travel $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in the train until we reach the mining area. Individuals in wheelchairs will sit sideways in the train car. Individuals then climb a spiral staircase (about 36 steps) to the mining area called the stope. We have also installed an elevator in this area to help those individuals who are unable or not comfortable climbing the spiral staircase. This area begins the section of the tour where there will be small rocks, which may make it difficult for individuals using walkers or wheelchairs. It really depends on the type of wheels or tires on the equipment. Once you are in the stope, you will learn about the history of the area and when the tour is over you will follow the same process to get back to the surface. There is not much walking on the tour, perhaps 100 feet at any one time, but probably no more than 400 feet total.

The physics lab tour is also ADA accessible. Visitors will travel down the same cage system to the lab. Once in the lab there is an elevator for those that cannot climb stairs, which takes visitors to the upper level. The surface in the lab is smooth, so movement should be easy.

If you have questions about the accessibility of the park, please contact the park office at 218-753-2245.